

VALUING YOUR HAND

HIGH CARD POINTS (HCP)

Ace=4, King=3, Queen=2, Jack=1

Count only High Card Points when opening or responding with balanced hands (No Trump Bids). Do not add long suit points or short suit points.

DISTRIBUTION POINTS

In addition to High Card Points we can add *distribution points* for long suits OR short suits:

1. Long Suit Points

For any suit with more than 4 cards, add a point for each card beyond the fourth card.

Count Long Suit Points when opening the bidding or when responding with a change of suit.

2. Short Suit Points (Also Called Dummy Points)

We count short suit points *only* when we have an 8 card or better fit with partner.

With 4 card or better support Void=5, Singleton=3, Doubleton=1

With only 3 card support Void=3, Singleton=2, Doubleton=1

Don't count Long Suit Points as well as Short Suit Points.

TOTAL POINTS

When we refer to Total Points we mean the total of

High Card Points and Long Suit Points

OR

High Card Point and Short Suit Points.

See above for when to count Long Suit Points and Short Suit Points. We never add BOTH Long Suit Points and Short Suit Points.

POINT COUNT ADJUSTMENTS

Beginners can skip this for now but more advanced learners might like to look at the handout on [Point Count Adjustments](#).